

CLAIMS:

1. A tilt device comprising:

at least one side mounting bracket supporting a backing plate the backing plate having a lower operational position and a raised storage position, and

an adjustable connection arrangement connecting the backing plate to the at least one side mounting bracket,

wherein the adjustable connection arrangement includes first and second adjustable connection points which are restrained to each travel in arcuate paths during movement of said backing plate between said operational and storage positions, and wherein when in said operational position, the force due to gravity on the backing plate produces biasing forces about said respective adjustable connection points in opposite directions along said arcuate paths.
2. A tilt device as claimed in claim 1, wherein two side mounting brackets and two adjustable connection arrangements are joined by the backing plate.
3. A tilt device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said adjustable connection arrangement comprises pivoting link arms.
4. A tilt device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said adjustable connection arrangement comprises first and second curved slots, each of which constrains the movement of a respective adjustable connection point.
5. A tilt device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said first and second curved slots are housed within said side mounting bracket.
6. A tilt device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said first and second curved slots are housed within said backing plate.

7. A tilt device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a biasing means, attached to said backing plate which augments said biasing forces upon said adjustable connection points.
8. A tilt device as claimed in 7, wherein said biasing means is a spring or piston.
9. A tilt device as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8, wherein the biasing force provided by said biasing means is adjustable.
10. A tilt device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a stopper prevents said backing plate from moving to positions beyond said lower operational position.
11. A tilt device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a locking means is employed to substantially stabilise said backing plate against rotation.
12. A tilt device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said adjustable connection arrangement comprises a first pivoting link arm and a second pivoting link arm.
13. A tilt device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said first pivoting link arm has an upper first end pivotally connected to an upper region of said at least one side mounting bracket, and a lower second end pivotally connected to an upper region of said backing plate, and wherein said second pivoting link arm has an upper first end pivotally connected to an upper region of said at least one side mounting bracket, and a lower second end pivotally connected to a lower region of said backing plate.
14. A tilt device as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13, wherein said first pivoting link arm and said second pivoting link arm are substantially different lengths.
15. An outboard motor including a tilt device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

16. A boat including a tilt device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14 or an outboard motor as claimed in claim 15.
17. A tilt device, outboard motor or boat substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.